

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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H-01 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02
SS-15 ICA-11 AID-05 EB-08 AGRE-00 COME-00 OMB-01
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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0291
INFO AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN
AMEMBASSY ACCRA
AMEMBASSY KINSHASA

C O N F I D E N T I A L BUCHAREST 4460

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PDIP, RO, XA
SUBJECT: MORE AFRICAN VISITORS: ZAIRE, GHANA, IVORY COAST

1. DURING PAST WEEK THERE HAVE BEEN THREE MORE VISITS TO ROMANIA BY REPRESENTATIVES OF BLACK AFRICAN STATES. TWO OF THE VISITORS WERE RECEIVED BY PRESIDENT CEAUSESCU.

2. ZAIRIAN COMMISSIONER FOR AGRICULTURE, TEPATONDELE ZAMBITE, WAS HERE FOR APPARENTLY BRIEF, TWO-DAY WORKING VISIT WITH HIS ROMANIAN COUNTERPART. PRESS COVERAGE WAS LOW KEY BUT NOTED THAT ZAMBITE VISITED AGRICULTURAL AND IRRIGATION PROJECTS, AGRICULTURAL EQUIPMENT PLANTS AND AGRICULTURAL SCHOOLS. PRIOR TO HIS DEPARTURE, DOCUMENT WAS SIGNED PROVIDING FOR ECONOMIC AND TECHNICAL COOPERATION IN THE FIELD OF AGRICULTURE.

3. GHANA'S ASANTEHENE, ACCOMPANIED BY HIS WIFE AND THREE OTHERS, ARRIVED ON JUNE 20 ON A "VISIT OF FRIENDSHIP", AND WAS RECEIVED BY PRESIDENT CEAUSESCU ON JUNE 22, IMMEDIATELY AFTER HIS RETURN FROM A SPEAKING TOUR OF FOUR JUDETE
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(COUNTIES). HIS OFFICIAL HOST WAS MINISTER OF FORESTRY AND CONSTRUCTION MATERIALS, VIRGIL TROFIN. BEFORE THEIR DEPARTURE ON JUNE 24, THE ASHANTIS VISITED THE BLACK SEA PORT OF CONSTANTA.

4. IVORIAN FOREIGN MINISTER, SIMEON AKE WAS RECEIVED ON JUNE 23 BY FOREIGN MINISTER STEFAN ANDREI, RECENTLY RE-

TURNED FROM PARIS. THE TWO FOREIGN MINISTERS HELD EXTENSIVE DISCUSSIONS IN FRAMEWORK OF FIRST SESSION OF JOINT COMMISSION THAT RESULTED FROM PRESIDENT CEAUSESCU'S 1977 VISIT TO THE IVORY COAST. THESE DISCUSSIONS LED TO SIGNING OF "AN ARRANGEMENT" BETWEEN COUNTRIES' PRESS SERVICES AND "AN UNDERSTANDING" BETWEEN THE TWO RTV SERVICES. FURTHER DISCUSSIONS WITH VICE PM AND MINISTER OF FOREIGN TRADE AND INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC COOPERATION, CORNEL BURTICA, AND THE MINISTER OF MINES, PETROLEUM AND GEOLOGY RESULTED IN A "PROTOCOL PROVIDING FOR ACTIONS INTENDED TO BRING ABOUT" INCREASED COOPERATION IN MINING, GEOLOGY, FORESTRY, AND AGRICULTURE AS WELL AS IN FIELDS OF CULTURE, EDUCATION, INFORMATION AND SPORTS. A VISIT TO INDUSTRIAL CENTER OF BRASOV WAS FOLLOWED BY MEETING WITH PRESIDENT CEAUSESCU FOR CUSTOMARY WIDE-RANGING DISCUSSIONS ON BILATERAL COOPERATION AND WORLD AFFAIRS. SUBJECTS MENTIONED MOST PROMINENTLY IN RCP OFFICIAL DAILY SCINTEIA WERE INTEREST IN NEW WORLD ECONOMIC ORDER AND AGREEMENT THAT AFRICAN DISPUTES MUST BE SETTLED BY NEGOTIATIONS WITHIN THE FRAMEWORK OF THE OAU WITHOUT "FOREIGN INTERFERENCE OR PRESENCE."

5. COMMENT. THESE VISITS FOLLOW CLOSELY ON WIDELY PUBLICIZED VISITS OF NIGERIAN CHIEF OF STATE AND GHANIAN FOREIGN AFFAIRS COMMISSIONER, AS WELL AS UNPUBLICIZED VISIT OF ZAPU'S ROBERT MUGABE. WHILE GOR MAKES NO BONES ABOUT ITS SUPPORT FOR LEFTIST LIBERATION MOVEMENTS, CONFIDENTIAL

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IT IS ALSO UNEQUIVOCALLY OPPOSED TO SOVIET-CUBAN INTERVENTION, AND ITS CULTIVATION OF MORE CONSERVATIVE AFRICAN REGIMES WITH WHICH IT CAN JOIN IN STRESSING SUPPORT FOR AFRICAN SOLUTIONS WITHOUT OUTSIDE MEDDLING IS ONE WAY OF OBLIQUELY AND SAFELY EXPRESSING ITS POSITION. THE ZAIRIAN VISIT--AT A TIME WHEN MOBUTU HAS BEEN DRUMMING UP SUPPORT IN THE WEST AND IN CHINA--WOULD SEEM TO FIT INTO THIS CONTEXT, AND WE WONDER IF IT MAY NOT FORESHADOW SOME FORM OF ROMANIAN ASSISTANCE TO ZAIRE IN FIELD OF AGRICULTURE.

6. CONTINUAL VISITS BY AFRICANS SHOULD ALSO BE VIEWED IN CONTEXT OF GOR'S UNCEASING EFFORTS TO DEMONSTRATE ITS NON-ALIGNED CREDENTIALS AND ENSURE PERPETUATION OF ITS "INVITEE" STATUS IN THE NAM. OF EQUAL IMPORTANCE IS GOR'S SEARCH FOR TRADE OUTLETS AND POTENTIAL SITES FOR JOINT VENTURES, FOR GOR APPEARS TO VIEW AFRICAN COUNTRIES WITH FLOURISHING FREE ENTERPRISE ECONOMICS--SUCH AS NIGERIA AND THE IVORY COAST--AS AMONG ITS MORE PROMISING PROSPECTS. IN THIS CONTEXT THE IVORIAN VISIT WOULD APPEAR TO BE AT BEST A TENTATIVE SUCCESS, JUDGING FROM EQUIVOCAL LANGUAGE USED BY SCINTEIA TO DESCRIBE AGREEMENTS

CONCLUDED. WE SUSPECT ROMANIANS AT LEAST RAISED SUBJECT
OF ACCREDITATION OF GOIC AMBASSADOR HERE AND ASSUME
FROM FAILURE TO MENTION SUBJECT IN PRESS, THAT THEY RECEIVED NO
ENCOURAGEMENT AND IVORY COAST WILL REMAIN ONE OF VERY FEW OF
47 INDEPENDENT AFRICAN STATES WITH WHICH GOR MAINTAINS
DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS WITHOUT AN AMBASSADOR ACCREDITED
TO IT.
AGGREY

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